

What is claimed is:

1. A software tool development system including:
  - a customer relaying customer tool requirements for a tool to a tool provider;
  - a tool provider generating a custom tool based on the tool requirements received from the customer and storing the custom tool on a remote server accessible by the customer; and
  - a remote server accessible by the customer wherein said remote server includes:
    - a database storing the custom tool;
    - a database for storage by users of the customer; and
    - a project database.
2. The system of claim 1 wherein said tool provider includes a system administrator for interpreting the tool requirements received from the customer and generating custom application specific tool requirements.
3. The system of claim 2 wherein said tool provider includes a number of system engineering software modules.
4. The system of claim 3 wherein said tool provider includes a development team receiving said custom application specific tool requirements and said system engineering software modules and generating a custom tool.

5. The system of claim 1 wherein said remote server further includes a “to approve” database for storage of project elements awaiting approval.
6. The system of claim 5 further including an approver at the customer for reviewing project elements stored in said approval database.
7. The system of claim 1 wherein said customer determines new features and transmits said new features to said tool provider.
8. The system of claim 7 wherein said tool provider modifies said custom tool based on said new features.
9. A method for supporting customer development using a custom software tool including the steps of:
  - relaying customer tool requirements for a custom software tool to a tool provider;
  - generating, at a tool provider, a custom software tool based on the customer tool requirements;
  - storing said custom software tool on a remote server accessible by the customer; and
  - supporting customer development using said custom software tool by providing a database for storage by users of the customer and a project database for storage of competed project elements.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein said generating step includes the step of generating a custom software tool using a system administrator for interpreting the tool requirements received from the customer and generating custom application specific tool requirements.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein said generating step includes the step of generating a custom software tool using a number of system engineering software modules.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein said generating step includes the step of generating a custom software tool using a development team receiving said custom application specific tool requirements and said system engineering software modules and generating a custom software tool.

13. The method of claim 9 wherein said supporting step further includes the step of providing a "to approve" database for storage of project elements awaiting approval.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein said supporting step further includes the step of approving project elements stored in said approval database

15. The method of claim 9 further including the step of transmitting new features for said custom software tool from said customer to said tool provider.

16. The method of claim 15 further including the step of modifying said custom software tool at the tool provider in response to said new features.

17. A project server for use in a software tool development system, said project server including:

storage for a custom software tool developed by a tool provider in response to customer tool requirements supplied by a customer;

storage for user data developed through the use of said custom software tool;

storage for project elements awaiting approval; and

storage for completed project elements.

18. The system of claim 17 wherein said tool provider includes a system administrator for interpreting the tool requirements received from the customer and generating custom application specific tool requirements.

19. The system of claim 18 wherein said tool provider includes a number of system engineering software modules.

20. The system of claim 19 wherein said tool provider includes a development team receiving said custom application specific tool requirements and said system engineering software modules and generating a custom tool.

21. The system of claim 17 wherein said project elements awaiting approval are reviewed by an approver at the customer.